



PRESS RELEASE

# Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$1.5 Million to Advance New Senior Housing

MassWorks Infrastructure Program award will prepare Worcester Senior Center site for 60 new senior-housing units

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

## MEDIA CONTACT

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**Samantha Kaufman, Deputy Director of Communications**



Online

[samantha.kaufman@state.ma.us](mailto:samantha.kaufman@state.ma.us)

**WORCESTER, MA** — Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined local officials and community leaders to announce a \$1.5 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program award to the City of Worcester for the Worcester Senior Center Parking and Renovation Project. The award will support the long-term redevelopment of the Nurses' Wing at the Worcester Senior Center and improve traffic circulation.

“With today’s MassWorks award, our Administration has invested over \$7 million in high-impact infrastructure projects in Worcester, which have supported new housing, mixed use development, and improved the city’s transportation and walkability,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Programs like MassWorks continue to support our commitment to working with our partners at the local level to drive development and unlock opportunities for private investment, housing and new jobs in communities across the Commonwealth.”

“We are proud of the strong partnerships we have built to provide each of Massachusetts’ 351 cities and towns with flexible funding to meet their individual economic development needs,” **said Lt. Governor Polito**. “With this MassWorks award, the redevelopment of the Worcester Senior Center will prepare the site for future development and pave the way for critical senior housing in the city.”

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program makes grants to municipalities for public infrastructure projects that generate additional private sector investment.

Today’s award will support the redevelopment of the Nurse’s Wing at the Worcester Senior Center into 60 units of future senior-housing. The project will prepare the site for development by demolishing and remediating existing structures to create more parking, enhance the site’s circulation and improve nearby traffic flow.

The project will also leverage \$1.175 million in CDBG funds from the City of Worcester, and is within the 495/MetroWest Development Compact’s Priority Development Area. Additionally, the city has committed to installing a solar canopy on the site to offset future operation costs of the Worcester Senior Center.

“The effectiveness of the MassWorks Infrastructure Program and the reason that it has been successful at unlocking development is the program’s ability to support projects across a wide range of sizes and scope,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. “Each year we fund high-quality, shovel-ready projects, and this year is no exception. I congratulate the cities and towns for pursuing projects that strengthen communities and promote sustainable economic growth and development across the Commonwealth.”

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program provides a one-stop shop for municipalities and other eligible public entities seeking public infrastructure funding to support housing production, economic development, and job creation. Since 2015, and including this year’s awards, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded over \$274 million to 134 projects in 106 communities throughout the Commonwealth, spurring the development of more than 2 million square feet of commercial and retail space, over 7,000 immediate housing units, at least 7,000 square feet of new public space and 1,200 new hotel rooms and commercial/retail space.

“MassWorks funding provides our communities with flexibility to address critical projects that support local economic growth and job creation,” **said Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan**. “We have prioritized engaging and supporting our cities and towns in our capital budget plan, and the MassWorks program is one of the best ways in which we can do this.”

“Investing in our seniors and the Worcester Senior Center has been a priority of mine since my first day as mayor,” **said Worcester Mayor Joseph M. Petty**. “I want to thank City Manager Augustus and Lieutenant Governor Polito for staying focused on improvements that will make a real impact in the day to day lives of so many of our seniors.”

“The Worcester Senior Center is a bright and welcoming place that promotes healthy aging through programs that keep seniors active in both mind and body,” **said City Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr.** “MassWorks funding will allow for safer parking, environmental remediation, and other site renovations.”

“I am very happy that the City of Worcester and the Mass Works Infrastructure Program have partnered on this project to improve the Worcester Senior Center,” said **Senate President Harriette L. Chandler**. “The Senior Center plays a vital role in the Worcester community, serving as a meeting point and resource hub for the city’s senior citizens. This funding will ensure that the Center is capable of executing its mission well into the future.”

“We have a duty to help ensure seniors in our community have a place to call home,” **said Senator Michael O. Moore**. “Not only does this Mass Works Infrastructure Program funding provide valuable housing opportunities, it also helps spur local economic development, creates jobs, promotes renewable energy and positively impacts many different levels of the Worcester community. I commend the Administration for awarding this grant to benefit Worcester residents and look forward to the project’s completion.”

“This MassWorks grant will allow for us to better serve our senior population through major improvements to the Worcester Senior Center,” **said Representative Jim O’Day**. “Additional housing and parking enables more seniors to access valuable services, and the new solar canopy will make the center more cost effective and enable it to continue to serve our population for generations to come.”

In August 2016, Governor Baker signed [An Act Relative to Job Creation and Workforce Development \(H.4569\)](#) to reauthorize MassWorks and support \$500 million of future investment in critical infrastructure, a significant commitment by the Commonwealth.

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## Media Contact

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[samantha.kaufman@state.ma.us](mailto:samantha.kaufman@state.ma.us)

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